

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 101859Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9125

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 4973

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, AG, UR

SUBJ: V.N. RYKOV NAMED SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO ALGIERS

1. PRAVDA ANNOUNCED APRIL 10 APPOINTMENT OF VASILY NAZAROVICH RYKOV AS SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO ALGIERS VICE S.S. GRUZINOV.

2. COMMENT: RYKOV WAS RELEASED FROM POST AS SECOND SECRETARY OF TURKMEN CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON JANUARY 10, 1974, A POST HELD SINCE 1963. RYKOV WAS PROMOTED FROM CANDIDATE MEMBER TO FULL MEMBER OF THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE IN 1971, BUT HE WILL PROBABLY BE DROPPED AT THE 1976 PARTY CONGRESS SINCE THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO ALGIERS TRADITIONALLY DOES NOT RATE THIS HIGH PARTY RANK. RYKOV'S FIRST DIPLOMATIC ASSIGNMENT PROBABLY REMOVES HIM AT AGE 57 FROM THE MAINSTREAM OF PARTY POLITICS.

3. HE IS ETHNICALLY PROBABLY PART TURKIC IN VIEW OF HIS PATRONYMIC ALTHOUGH LISTED AS RUSSIAN, AND THIS MAY HAVE BEEN A PLUS FACTOR IN HIS CHOICE AS AMBASSADOR TO A MOSLEM COUNTRY. AN EARLY INDICATOR OF HIS SLIPPING POLITICAL FORTUNES WAS GIVEN ON JUNE 16, 1974, WHEN HE WAS NOT RE-ELECTED TO THE POSITION OF DEPUTY TO THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET FROM A LOCAL TURKMEN ELECTORAL DISTRICT.

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4. BORN IN 1918, CPSU MEMBER SINCE 1943, EDUCATED IN THE
NOVOCHERKASSY INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE, RYKOV MOVED FROM INDUSTRIAL
TO PARTY WORK BY THE EARLY 1950S. HE ONCE WORKED AS A WARD
PARTY SECRETARY IN MOSCOW BEFORE MOVING TO TURKMENISTAN.

STOESSEL

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